

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert before the first paragraph under BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION of page 1 of the disclosure currently on file with the following paragraph:

This application is a Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 10/020,906 filed December 19, 2001. Priority is claimed based on U.S. Serial No. 10/020,906 filed December 19, 2001, which claims the priority of Japanese Application No. 2001-169566 filed on June 5, 2001.

Please amend the first and second paragraphs under DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS of page 6 of the disclosure as follows:

According to the present invention, the isolation and purification of the nucleic acids from an organism, i.e. DNAs, may be carried out based on the method illustrated in Fig. 1. Fig. 1 shows the main elements in the processes, described in JP-A-127854/1999. Followings explain the details of each process. This method is described in JP-A-127854/1999 and comprising 4 processes.

Figs. 2 to 5 illustrate the processes for extracting the nucleic acids from whole blood using the nucleic acids extraction reagents according to the processes described in Fig. 1. present invention based on the method of Fig. 1 described in the JP-A 127854/1999. In the following description, nucleic acids extraction from 100 µL of human whole blood is taken as an example. As shown in Fig. 2, human whole blood 1 contains erythrocytes 2, leukocytes 3, and other components.. Nucleic acids are mainly derived from the nucleus 4 of the leukocyte 3.